

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a task in a processor-based system that includes a monitor and a user input device for controlling information displayed on the monitor, the method comprising:

5 displaying on the monitor a plurality of connector pieces representing respective tasks to be completed, the pieces arranged in a tree reflecting a hierarchy of tasks;

displaying a plurality of attachment pieces on the monitor, each of the attachment pieces configured to interconnect with at least one of the connector pieces;

10 using the user input device to position one of the attachment pieces and one of the connector pieces in close proximity with each other on the monitor, said proximity positioning indicating a desire on the part of a user to complete the task; and

inputting into the processor information necessary to performing the task, wherein the user is prompted for said information following said positioning.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said positioning results in said one of the attachment pieces and said one of the connector pieces appearing interconnected.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said inputting includes confirming default settings from the processor.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the attachment pieces and said one of the connector pieces have matching colors.

20 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the attachment pieces and said one of the connector pieces have respective contours that substantially match when they are interconnected.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the attachment pieces and said one of the connector pieces have matching images thereon.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the connector pieces itself includes interconnected pieces.

8. The method of Claim 1, said positioning including initially placing said one of the attachment pieces next to a piece other than said one of said connector pieces, in which said one
5 of said attachment pieces is then repositioned to appear interconnected with said one of the connector pieces.

9. The method of Claim 1, said positioning including moving said one of the attachment pieces from one part of the tree to another part of the tree.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the task represents the installation of a printer.

10 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the attachment pieces is selected from a menu on the monitor.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of the attachment pieces is selected from a toolbar on the monitor.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of pieces are displayed in a piled,
15 overlapping fashion.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the tree includes at least one subtree, the tree and subtree having respective connector pieces having different shapes, and wherein the attachment pieces include pieces that interconnect with said tree connector piece and said subtree connector piece, respectively.

20 15. A processor-implemented method of performing a task, comprising:

displaying a first piece on a monitor connected to a processor, the first piece positioned within a tree that includes a plurality of pieces, the first piece representing a task to be performed;

displaying a second piece on the monitor, wherein the second piece is configured to interconnect with the first piece, the first and second pieces having respective contours that substantially match when interconnected;

positioning the first and second pieces on the monitor in close proximity to each other,

5 said positioning indicating a desire on the part of a user to perform the task; and

inputting into the processor information necessary to performing the task, wherein the user is prompted for said information following said positioning.

16. A method of creating a visual representation of a task to be performed, comprising:

10 displaying on a monitor a first set of pieces arranged in a tree, the pieces corresponding to tasks to be performed, wherein the pieces are designed to mate with respective counterpart pieces;

displaying an additional piece on the monitor; and

creating a piece in the tree, the created piece acting hierarchically as a parent to the additional piece.

15 17. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the medium including machine-readable instructions for carrying out the method of Claim 1.

18. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the medium including machine-readable instructions for carrying out the method of Claim 15.

19. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the medium
20 including machine-readable instructions for carrying out the method of Claim 16.